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EMAIL

November 15, 2018

The Honorable Ronald L. Wyden
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

I am responding to your joint letter dated July 26, 2018, delivered via email on September 6, 2018, to Joseph R. Gregory, requesting information and documentation related to participation in a trip to Moscow in 2015 and certain other information and documentation. I am the personal attorney for Mr. Gregory and all future correspondence regarding this matter should be directed to my attention at the address above. My responses below are given based solely on the information provided to me, without further independent investigation or inquiry. We continue to look for other documents which may be relevant to your inquiry and reserve the right to supplement this response if necessary.

1. Mr. Gregory confirms that he and other individuals traveled to Israel and Russia in December 2015. Mr. Gregory is a supporter of the National Rifle Association (the "NRA" or the "Association"). Arrangements for Mr. Gregory's travel to Israel and Russia were made by the NRA in accordance with what historically took place in NRA trips prior to this one. Mr. Gregory understood at the time that the NRA paid for his expenses. Over the years, Mr. Gregory made several trips organized and paid for by the NRA. Typically, he understood that the NRA paid for expenses associated with the trips. Mr. Gregory has no personal knowledge whether his expenses while he was in Russia were paid for by the NRA or anyone else. Mr. Gregory has active interests in Israel and traveled to Israel on prior occasions with expenses paid for by the NRA, to his knowledge. The extension of the December 2015 trip to Russia was Mr. Gregory's first trip to Russia.
2. Mr. Gregory's recollection is that he was invited to go on the trip to Israel by the NRA Ring of Freedom Program and to Russia by David Keene, a past NRA President and then-current NRA Board member. Email messages on which Mr. Gregory was copied and his personal

observations while in Russia indicated that the visitors' activities in Russia were organized in part by Ms. Butina. For example, on or about December 3, 2015, Ms. Butina sent an email message to trip participants attaching what she described as "the program of your stay in Moscow." The signature in the email message referred to Ms. Butina as Mr. Torshin's "Special assistant" and "Founding Chairman / Board Member of the All-Russian Public Organization 'The Right to Bear Arms.'" Mr. Gregory is unaware to what extent, if any, Ms. Butina or any other organization besides the NRA contributed to his expenses.

3. To Mr. Gregory's knowledge and recollection, he did not receive anything that can be described as "remuneration" from Ms. Butina, the Right to Bear Arms organization, or any entity or organization affiliated with, managed, or controlled by Ms. Butina.
4. As noted in response to question no. 1, Mr. Gregory understood that the NRA made travel arrangements for, and paid for his expenses to and from Russia. As noted in response to question no. 2, Mr. Gregory was invited to go on the trip to Russia by David Keene, a Past NRA President and then-current NRA Board Member. Mr. Gregory is not an NRA Board member, employee or officer. Mr. Gregory's title of "Co-Chairman of the Golden Ring of Freedom Program" is honorary and reflects his long-standing support of the Association.
5. Mr. Torshin and Ms. Butina joined the group at events in Moscow during the December 2015 trip to Russia. During those interactions in 2015, Mr. Gregory had casual conversations with Mr. Torshin and Ms. Butina in keeping with customary cordial relations.
6. Mr. Gregory has regularly attended NRA events for several years. Mr. Gregory recalls that Mr. Torshin and/or Ms. Butina attended a few of these events in the United States. Mr. Gregory believes he was originally introduced to Mr. Torshin and Ms. Butina at one of these events prior to the December 2015 trip to Israel and Russia.

Mr. Gregory recalls a number of interactions after the December 2015 trip. They include the following.

Mr. Gregory invited Ms. Butina, who was planning to be in Nashville, Tennessee at the time, to join him, his sons, and his friends at an NHL All-Star game at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee that took place on or about January 31, 2016. Mr. Gregory recalls that, the day after the NHL game, Ms. Butina attended a women's luncheon at Mr. Gregory's office facility in Bristol at which he understands she spoke about gun rights in Russia.

Later that day, Ms. Butina attended a women's Bible study with Mr. Gregory's wife and other women at Mr. Gregory's home.

In or around January/February of 2016, Mr. Gregory put Ms. Butina in touch with certain individuals in connection with her attendance at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. At Mr. Gregory's invitation, Ms. Butina flew on his personal aircraft from Bristol, Tennessee to Washington, D.C.

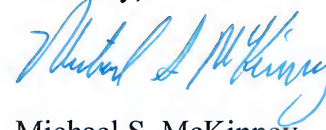
On or about February 5, 2016, Mr. Gregory, members of Mr. Gregory's staff, Mr. Gregory's son, Ms. Butina and Mr. Torshin flew together on Mr. Gregory's personal aircraft from Washington, D.C. to Las Vegas to attend a Safari Club International convention. In an email message Mr. Gregory sent on or about January 27, 2016 copying David Keene and others, he noted that during the flight he intended to discuss with Mr. Torshin and Ms. Butina "plans for a trip to Kamchatka"—a part of Russia known for its wildlife and hunting expeditions. Mr. Gregory never went to Kamchatka. Mr. Gregory paid for Mr. Torshin's and Ms. Butina's hotel in Las Vegas.

Although he has no recollection of specific conversations with Ms. Butina or Mr. Torshin, Mr. Gregory generally recalls that conversations with Ms. Butina and Mr. Torshin revolved around their mutual interests in firearms, hunting, and travel. Mr. Gregory also believes that he momentarily saw Ms. Butina and Mr. Torshin at a distance at the NRA Annual Meeting in 2016 but has no recollection of any specific interaction.

7. Mr. Gregory has no recollection of ever meeting Paul Erickson or otherwise interacting with him or any entity known to Mr. Gregory to be connected to Mr. Erickson. Included in the production is an email message Mr. Erickson sent to Mr. Gregory on or about February 6, 2016. Mr. Gregory has no recollection of receiving or responding to the email message.
8. During the trip to Russia, visitors from the United States, including Mr. Gregory, met a group of Russian individuals who hosted a meet and greet at a gun club in Moscow. Mr. Gregory recalls that Mr. Rogozin arrived later at the club and entered the conference room where a meeting had been ongoing for some time and stayed only briefly, being introduced to the U.S. visitors. Later, members of the U.S. group watched Mr. Rogozin and others shoot guns inside a prescribed indoor training facility, and photographs were taken. As far as Mr. Gregory is aware, when he was in Russia, he had no interactions with any other individuals or entities sanctioned at the time.

I trust this information along with the enclosed documents will satisfy your inquiry, at least insofar as it relates to Mr. Gregory. As a reminder, Mr. Gregory is not, and never has been, an employee, agent, or director of the NRA, and is not, an elected official or government employee.

Sincerely,



Michael S. McKinney

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal (without enclosures)
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse (without enclosures)
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren (without enclosures)
Joseph R. Gregory (without enclosures)